

## Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /132 W

----- 128182

R 230635Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7625

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (NIXON, RICHARD M.), SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S MIDDLE EAST TOUR

1. SUMMARY: SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE FROM SAUDI ARABIA WE HAVE OBSERVED A UNIFORMLY POSITIVE REACTION TO THE VISIT ACROSS THE FULL SPECTRUM OF SAUDI SOCIETY. THE TYPICAL REACTION IS A GENERALIZED ONE COMPOUNDED OF PRIDE, PLEASURE AND SATISFACTION, PLUS HOPE THAT PEACE MAY NOW BE POSSIBLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS A RESULT OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT. THERE IS ALSO CONCERN THAT THE U.S. POSITION MAY ERODE IN THE ABSENCE

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OF PROGRESS. END SUMMARY.P

2. THE MOST COMMON OF THE POSITIVE REACTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT HAS BEEN PRIDE AND PLEASURE THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE MOST POWERFUL COUNTRY IN THE WORLD HAS VISITED SAUDI ARABIA. AMONG THE MOST TALKED OF ASPECTS OF THE VISIT HAS BEEN THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT DINNER LAUDING KING FAISAL. MOST SAUDIS IDENTIFY PERSONALLY WITH FAISAL AND THEIR PLSASURE AT THIS PRAISE HAS BEEN MANIFEST (SAUDIS HAVE ALSO REMARKED ON PRESIDENT'S PERFORMANCE IN SPEAKING EXTEMPORANEOUSLY WITH ELOQUENCE--SOMETHING THEY REGARD AS A PARTICULAR ARAB SKILL.)

3. THE SAUDIS ARE OBVIOUSLY CONSCIOUS OF THE HISTORIC NATURE OF THE VISIT; THEY SEE IT AS HAVING PUT A SPECIAL SEAL ON THE NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE U.S. WHICH HAD BEEN WORKED OUT DURING PRICE FAHD'S VISIT TO THE U.S. IT ALSO FORMALIZED SAUDI ARABIA'S ARRIVAL IN THE BIG LEAGUES AS A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.

4. VIRTUALLY WITHOUT EXCEPTION SAUDIS ALSO REGARDED VISIT IN BROADER MIDDLE EAST CONTEXT AND IT IS IN THIS AREA THAT VARIATION IN REACTIONS MOST VISIBLE. ALL AGREE THAT VISIT HAS RESULTED FROM A CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY TOWARDS MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. SOME OF THE LESS SOPHISTICATED WE HAVE TALKED TO HAVE GIVEN THANKS THAT PEACE HAS AT LAST ARRIVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE MORE COMMON REACTION HAS BEEN THAT PEACE NOW SEEMS POSSIBLE. EVERY INFORMED SAUDI HAS NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT PRESIDENT REMARKED ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS DURING HIS MIDDLE EAST TOUR THAT ONLY FIRST STEPS HAVE BEEN MADE TOWARD PEACE AND THAT U.S. WILL CONTINUE ITS INVOLVEMENT. A NUMBER OF PERSONS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IF THESE EFFORTS DO NOT RESULT IN CONTINUED PROGRESS TOWARD A JUST PEACE, THE IMPROVED POSITION OF THE U.S. IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL BEGIN TO UNRAVEL AND THE PLANS FOR CLOSE U.S.-SAUDI COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT.

5. IN CONCLUSION, FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE KINGDOM, U.S. PRESTIGE HAS NEVER BEEN HIGHER. EXPECTATIONS THAT THE U.S. WILL BRING PEACE TO THE AREA HAVE ALSO RISEN AND CARRY RISK THAT DISAPPOINTMENT WILL BE BITTER IF THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS NOT CONTINUED PROGRESS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CollinP0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
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**Review Date:** 29 APR 2002  
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**Subject:** SAUDI REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S MIDDLE EAST TOUR  
**TAGS:** OVIP, SA, (NIXON, RICHARD M)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005